

## Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 291590

LIMDIS-DOD HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR SECDEF

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

### 1. MITTERRAND REACTS TO RABIN

AT THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS IN GENEVA, FRENCH SOCIALIST PARTY (PS) SECRETARY MITTERRAND EXPRESSED SURPRISE TO AMERICAN OBSERVERS AT THE HARDENING OF PRIME MINISTER RABIN'S ATTITUDE. ACCORDING TO MITTERRAND, RABIN:

--IS UNABLE OR UNWILLING TO MAKE THE SLIGHTEST CONCESSION TO WORLD OPINION CONCERNED WITH ASSURING THE RIGHTS OF ALL MIDDLE EAST PEOPLES TO SECURE BORDERS;

--FAILS TO APPRECIATE THAT LACK OF PROGRESS ON ISRAELI ISSUES IS UNDERMINING SADAT'S POSITION AND THAT A CHANGE IN US ADMINISTRATIONS WILL CAUSE A BREAK IN  
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THE "CONTINUITY OF TRUST" ESTABLISHED BETWEEN THE

SECRETARY AND MIDDLE EAST LEADERS; AND

--SEEMS UNAWARE OF THE PRESSURES HIS INTRANSIGENCE  
PUTS ON THE SOCIALIST-LED AND -INFLUENCED NATIONS OF  
WESTERN EUROPE.

MITTERRAND URGED THAT THE US CONSIDER RAPID AND ENERGETIC  
ACTION TO RECONVENE THE GENEVA TALKS ON THE BASIS OF THE  
ORIGINAL LETTERS OF INVITATION.

US MISSION GENEVA COMMENT: THE PS, OBVIOUSLY CONCERNED  
ABOUT THE CHANGE OF US ADMINISTRATION AND THE POSSIBILITY  
THAT MOMENTUM GAINED IN THE MIDDLE EAST WILL BE LOST, IS  
HOPING TO STIMULATE STILL ANOTHER ROUND OF INTENSIVE NEGOTIATION. (CONFIDENTIAL) GENEVA 9465 (LIMDIS), 11/29.)

## 2. PRC: POLITICS AND PERSONALITIES

### A. EASING UP ON THE "GANG OF FOUR?"

CONSULATE HONG KONG REPORTS THAT IN A NOVEMBER 28 PEOPLE'S  
DAILY EDITORIAL, THE HUA REGIME CLEARLY SOFTENED THE TONE  
OF LEADERSHIP POLICY TOWARD FACTIONAL ELEMENTS AND THE  
GANG OF FOUR SUPPORTERS. PROMISING LENIENCY, THE EDITORIAL  
CALLED ON SUPPORTERS TO ADMIT PAST MISTAKES AND  
MAKE A CLEAR BREAK WITH THE PAST.

CONSULATE COMMENT: THE HUA REGIME SEEMS TO BE ATTEMPTING  
TO AVOID A POLITICAL BACKLASH, WHILE OTHERS APPEAR TO BE  
ARGUING FOR A NO-NONSENSE APPROACH TO FACTIONALISM. SHOULD  
SIGNS OF INDECISIVENESS CONTINUE, THE MOMENTUM GAINED IN  
OCTOBER THROUGH DECISIVE ACTION AGAINST CHIANG CHING AND  
COMPANY COULD BE LOST.

### B. TENG HSIAO-PING RECONSIDERED

CHAO TSE-LUNG, MANAGING EDITOR OF THE PRC-CONTROLLED TA  
KUNG PAO, CONFIRMED TO CONSULATE HONG KONG THAT TENG HSIAO-  
PING'S CASE IS BEING RECONSIDERED, AND THAT HIS RETURN TO  
PUBLIC LIFE IS QUITE POSSIBLE. ALTHOUGH TENG MADE SERIOUS  
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ERRORS, HE MIGHT BE REDEEMABLE AFTER SELF-CRITICISM.  
ACCORDING TO CHAO, TENG HAD:

--FAILED TO TAKE "CLASS STRUGGLE" AS THE KEY LINK;

--OPPOSED THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION; AND

--ALLOWED THE GANG OF FOUR TO GRAB MORE POWER BY USING

TENG'S NEGATION OF THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION AS AN  
EXCUSE.

CONSULATE COMMENT: CHAO'S COMMENTS ARE THE MOST AUTHORITA-  
TIVE INDICATION TO DATE THAT TENG'S CASE HAS BEEN OFFI-  
CIALLY REOPENED. IT NOW SEEMS THAT TENG FALTERED IN LIMIT-  
ING THE MACHINATIONS OF THE GANG OF FOUR BUT WAS NOT IN  
ERROR FOR OPPOSING THEM. (CONFIDENTIAL) HONG KONG 13834  
AND 13815, 11/29.) ROBINSON

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## Message Attributes

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